

SHAW DECLINES ANY COMMENT

Won't Discuss Possible Actions Against DA

Clay L. Shaw, the man acquitted of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy, Tuesday night declined to comment on any actions which may be taken against his prosecutor, District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Shaw is charged with perjury in connection with his trial testimony.

"We've reached the end of the beginning, and within a few days, I hope we will reach the beginning of the end," was all Shaw had to say on what he and his lawyers will do. "News is made when you make it," he said in a Channel 12 interview.

To Shaw the most important aspect of his 39-day ordeal in court was that "what happened to me could have happened to anyone." He was speaking of the financial support Garrison received from the private citizens' group, "Truth and Consequences Inc. He said that its involvement in the case "strikes at the very roots of our system."

Shaw said that there is no law against a DA's receiving money to prosecute a case, but conjectured that this was so because law makers never dreamed that such a thing could happen. He called for the Louisiana Legislature to enact a law to prevent it from ever happening again.

Going back to his original arrest in March 1967, Shaw described his reactions as "shock" and incredulity.

He reaffirmed his trial statements that at the time of booking he did not give the now famous names, "Clem or Clay Bertrand" as aliases and said that since the trial a new witness has been found to verify this.

When the unanimous verdict of not guilty finally came March 1, Shaw recalled that he said to his defense attorney, F. Irvin Dymond, "For the first time in my life I draw a really deep breath."